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Palestine

In recent months Palestine has been much in the news.

A group of Jews described as Zionists wish to have certain of their number migrate to Palestine and there establish a "Jewish National State." The Arabs, long a majority in Palestine, strongly oppose them.

The Zionists in the United States, believed to be a minority of the five and a half million Jews in this country, demand that the United States intervene aggressively in this situation. It is not clear what vital American interest is involved. Before the United States becomes committed to any action, it would seem wise to ascertain the facts.

The National Economic Council has received a letter from Mr. Benjamin H. Freedman in which he sets forth facts and draws conclusions which would seem to throw light on some of the questions involved. Mr. Freedman, born in New York, is a substantial industrialist and of the Jewish faith, one of whose many activities was the ownership and management of the John H. Woodbury soap business prior to its recent sale by him to the Andrew Jergens Co.

We shall be glad to receive from any competent Zionist a factual analysis of the Palestine question from the Zionist point of view, and to publish the same in an early Council Letter.

Mr. Freedman's letter follows:

National Economic Council, Inc.

New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

I write you with respect to the so-called Palestine question.

The threat of political Zionism to the welfare and security of America is little realized. It is a dangerous mistake to think of it as a localized, Arab-Jewish struggle. There may soon take place in Palestine an explosion that will set off another World War. Every American citizen, every head of a family, all members of Christian Churches, every non-Zionist Jew, should be brought to understand that the consequences can be fatally disastrous.

The influence of the Zionist organization reaches into the inner policy-making groups of nearly every government in the world—particularly into the Christian West. This influence causes these groups to adopt pro-Zionist policies which are often in conflict with the real interests of the peoples they govern.

This condition exists in the United States. Its extent is so great in the present administration as to make it a threat to our future. Space permits citing only a small part of the mass of evidence.

New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts and California control 151 electoral votes out of a total of 531. In these states are concentrated the overwhelming majority of Americans of Jewish faith. In these states Jews hold the balance of power. Zionists claim that they can "deliver" this vote. Although a great majority of American Jews are not Zionists, have no allegiance other than to America and no desire greater than to be good Americans, the Zionist minority has found means to silence them, and to convince nearly everybody that anti-Zionism means being anti-Jewish. In the light of this, and in the light of past elections, the present administration, with its eye on the next elections, has been strongly pro-Zionist. The pro-Zionist, politically motivated declarations of the President have been accepted throughout the world as official statements of American foreign policy.

Yet it has always been a cardinal principle of American policy that all civilized peoples have a right to enjoy their own freedom. Limitation of immigration into any country by those who already live there is one of the basic rights belonging to any people. No self-respecting people will hesitate to resist forced immigration of aliens into their borders. The United States would never permit Soviet Russia to compel us to admit Japanese immigrants and to give them the choicest parts of the Pacific Coast. Yet our President has declared—demanded—would be closer—that Britain should, by the exercise of military power and against the wishes of the present inhabitants, force into Palestine several hundred thousand immigrants from Eastern Europe with the avowed purpose of helping them set up their own religious national state.

This utterly immoral and unjust policy is producing

an unanticipated result. An explosion is brewing and, as it approaches, Christian supporters of Zionism in our government are almost panic-stricken. Yet they fear to reverse their position lest the Democratic Party be stigmatized by Zionists as "anti-Semitic." The next election is only a year away.

Another example is in the failure of the United States to offer its good offices as between Jews and Arabs. In Indonesia, the offer was made almost at once as between the Dutch and the Indonesian Republic. Despite the vastly more explosive situation in Palestine, Zionist pressure has kept the administration and its spokesmen from admitting that the Arabs, who have lived a mere 1300 years in their country, have any justice on their side in not wanting their land overrun and taken away from them by unwanted foreigners. The failure to recognize the right of the Arabs to have any voice in limiting immigration into their own country has produced a very unfavorable impression upon the whole Moslem world. The consequences of this can well be disastrous to America.

Soviet Communism will succeed in its attempt to conquer the world in direct proportion to the support which America gives to Zionism. This may sound startling, but it is grimly true.

The Moslem population of the world today is more than 400,000,000. The area of the globe they dominate extends from Morocco on the Atlantic across North Africa, the Middle East, Near East, Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Africa. This includes more than seventy-five per cent of the world's population. Not only do Moslems dominate it, but the Arabs comprise the largest single racial Moslem group, totalling about 100,000,000.

The formation in the United States of 300 "Christian Committees" as part of the "United Jewish Appeal" has contributed to the approaching crisis. That appeal seeks to raise here, in 1947, \$170,000,000. The "Christian Committees" are actively working to raise a large portion of this sum from American Christians. *Eighty-five millions of it has been earmarked for promotion of the Zionist invasion and conquest of Palestine by Jews from Eastern Europe.* Many prominent Christians are serving on these committees, most of them doubtless with no real understanding of what they are promoting.

The Moslem world cannot understand why no Christian Committees were formed to aid European Christian displaced persons, considering that they outnumber Jews in Displaced Persons Camps by four to one. Moslems do not think that Christians could be so naive as to be extending aid to Jews without some deep, underlying purpose. Such vast Christian support, without which the conquest of Palestine would be impossible, has convinced the Moslem world that Christianity is using Zionism as a tool, that this is the opening wedge in a 20th century Christian crusade against a reawakening Moslem world. If this seems a fantastic thing for Moslems to believe, remember that to a Moslem it would seem even more fantastic to be told that a small minority of Jews has maneuvered itself into a position where it can use almost the whole of Western Christendom as its tool. The Moslem will not believe that the tail wags the dog: therefore he concludes that the dog must be wagging the tail.

The conviction that Moslems are faced by the probability of another crusade in which Christians are pushing Jews ahead of them like a screen, is now working as a catalyst to unite 400,000,000 Moslems for common defense. Already the Moslem League and the Moslem Brotherhood have been successful in uniting Moslems from Morocco to the Philippines to resist the supposed Christian anti-Moslem crusade. Though little mentioned in the press, they are among the most powerful organizations in the world today. The hostility now generating will soon be directed against even those Christian forces that are working for understanding and which have nothing to do with Zionism.

These are facts which are intimately related to the problem of Soviet Russian Communism. Moslems, 400 million strong, control the policies of countries with more than a billion population. These countries are strategic in any global war. The compact mass of people in the great Moslem area forms today the most important potential ally the Soviet Union could acquire. Do the Russians know it? They do.

The anti-Christian ferment now developing works to make these peoples natural Russian allies. Russia is today the world's leading anti-Christian force. In any war with the Christian West it could not win without a friendly, or at least neutral, Moslem world. If the Moslem world were to ally itself with us, Russia's expansionism could be halted.

But today the most momentous fact in the whole world situation is that Russia and the Moslem world are finding something in common. By our almost incredible stupidity in backing political Zionism we are driving the Moslem into the welcoming arms of the Soviet.

While our "leaders" have hardly begun to see more than the dim implications of what they have done, Russia is already busily at work exploiting it. It is selling the Moslem world on the idea of a common war against a common enemy. Recently the Soviet Union has withdrawn from all Moslem areas every Jew in its service, in any capacity whatsoever. It has special missions working among all Moslem groups, offering all possible assistance to help them break free of any dominance or control by the Christian West. This aid has not merely been offered, it is now being given, in the form of political counsel, economic co-operation and military coordination.

Islam unites Moslem peoples politically and economically to an extent little understood by the peoples of the West. Heretofore the Moslem world has had confidence in the disinterestedness and leadership of the United States. They have long regarded it as the champion of all peoples struggling for freedom. Inherently the political systems, economic practices and social systems within the Moslem world are hostile to Russian ideology. But, while there is more natural affinity for the West, the first law of life is self-preservation. And Moslem leaders feel realistically that no Western combination could defeat a Soviet-Moslem alliance. They would prefer peace with the West but, rather than submit to a 20th century crusade and be subjugated, they would choose a Russian alliance and survival.

Even the United Nations is suspected by Moslems

as another instrument in the hands of expanding Christianity. The strong anti-Moslem position taken by several delegates on the UN Special Committee on Palestine, who represent predominantly Roman Catholic countries, further strengthens the Moslem conviction that the only way in which they will get justice from the Christian West is by fighting for it.

All these facts, and many others, add up in the mind of Moslems to two conclusions: First, Christianity has embarked upon another crusade against Islam; second, the first blow against Islam is the promotion of political Zionism. Moslems simply cannot believe that Christian nations would risk a world war against a Soviet-Moslem alliance simply to get a "homeland" for a few hundred thousand Jews.

Yet the Moslem world, reluctant to abandon final hope for peace with the Christian West, is waiting for some sign from Christianity that may avert a horrible catastrophe. Leaders of the Moslem League and the Moslem Brotherhood sit in our country today observing events as they develop. These representatives of the Islamic world would be impressed with some indication that not all Christian forces here are pro-Zionist. If important Christian elements should declare plainly that they oppose aggression against the Arabs in Palestine, and show some concern for justice to Islam, the Moslem conviction that they are facing a new crusade might be seriously disturbed. *But, as they wait such a sign, time is running out. Every day counts.*

These observers see also other facts that to them seem significant. In the inner, policy-making circles of our government they see influential Zionists. Not all hold office. Each is a power in the very circles where decisions are made. To Moslem observers this does not appear to be mere coincidence. Nor do they think that 140,000,000 Christian Americans are completely unwilling or innocent participants in this unholy alliance. Otherwise, they reason, why would the Christian majority permit their government to accept Zionist dictation and risk all the future in order to force Jewish immigration into Palestine?

The slavery question resulted in the American Civil War. But such a question will be dwarfed by comparison with the issue whether Americans of the Christian faith should be sent to Moslem lands for the purpose of forcing upon the unwilling inhabitants the establishment of a national Jewish state. What if in such a war the newspapers of the United States begin printing casualty lists of American soldiers, Christians, killed in Palestine to satisfy Zionist aspirations? Has anybody had sufficient foresight to understand what this may mean to the Jews of America, Zionist and non-Zionist alike? Doubtless the Jews in Palestine would be massacred to the last man, woman and child.

But what of the Jews in America? Americans do not want another world war; if another should come in which the cause could be laid at the door of the Jew, who knows how popular resentment might break out against a whole people? Have the political Zionists stopped to consider that? "Anti-Semitism" is bad enough already in America. But if Zionists should

push us into war for a Jewish Palestine, what will come will be to the present anti-Jewish sentiment as a hurricane is to a zephyr. If the majority non-Zionist Jews could only be brought to realize the disaster political Zionism is preparing for all Jews, and if they had the courage to act, they could break its power in a week. But they will not do this because they are afraid of being branded as "anti-Semitic Jews."

Popular ignorance of the real basis of political Zionism is beyond calculation. Vaguely most Christian Americans have the idea that the Jews claim Palestine because it was the "Promised Land" in which they lived for a period of a few centuries that ended 2000 years ago. And the thought of a people returning to its "homeland" seems emotionally satisfying and good.

But here are facts most Americans do not know:

Political Zionism is almost exclusively a movement by the Jews of Europe. *But these Eastern European Jews have neither a racial nor a historic connection with Palestine.* Their ancestors were not inhabitants of the "Promised Land." They are the direct descendants of the people of the Khazar Kingdom, which existed until the 12th century.

The Khazars were a non-Semitic, Turko-Finn, Mongolian tribal people who, about the 1st century A.D., emigrated from Middle Asia to Eastern Europe. There they created one of the largest kingdoms of their time. At its greatest extent it covered an area of about 800,000 square miles. About the 7th century A.D., the King of the Khazars adopted Judaism as the state religion, and the majority of inhabitants joined him in the new allegiance. Before that date there was no such thing as a Khazar who was a Jew. Neither then nor since was there such a thing as a Khazar whose ancestors had come from the Holy Land. The Semitic people who established Judaism in Palestine many centuries before the Khazars became converts to the Hebrew faith, *did* mostly emigrate from Palestine. *But none of them emigrated to the Khazar Kingdom far to the North.*

In view of this fact, what becomes of the cry for "repatriation" to the "homeland"? These Eastern European, Yiddish-speaking Jews have no historic or racial connection with Palestine, or, for that matter, with the other Jews who existed in other countries for thousands of years prior to the Khazar conversion.

At best, the cry of truly Palestinian-descended Jews for a return to the "homeland" would be highly dubious. What right have peoples whose ancestors departed nearly two thousand years ago, to claim territory in which the present inhabitants have lived for 1300 years? If the Indians should demand America back, would we all pack up and return to the lands of our ancestral origins? Yet the Arabs have been in Palestine a thousand years longer than we have been here. And if the claim of Palestinian-descended Jews is so dubious, what of the the claim of Khazar-descended Jews? Would a single Christian support their trek back to the "homeland" or want to oblige them by expelling the Arabs, if it were known that these Eastern European, Yiddish-speaking Jews who form the Zionist group practically *in toto*, have neither a geographic, historic or ethnic connection with either

the Jews of the Old Testament or the land known today as Palestine?

If the Jewish claim to Palestine is stated on the only other remaining ground, the religious, it may be summarily and finally replied that religiously both Christians and Moslems also have religious roots there. The reason it is called the "Holy Land" today is because Jesus of Nazareth lived and died there. To Christians he is the Son of God and Saviour. To Mohammedans he is a great prophet. To official Jewry, he is an executed blasphemer.

The ability of Zionists to have things their way stems from the organized pressure they can bring on people who do not agree with them. By holding the threat of being called "anti-Semitic" over men engaged in public or business life, they have been able to stifle opposition—even among American Jews such as the writer, who have no interest in forming a Jewish state and wish only to live and die as good Americans.

It will take courage for Americans of whatever origin to think these facts through and take public positions upon them. They will be smeared. They will be slandered. Already, Zionists have been able to bring about the economic ruin of many Christians and Jews who have dared challenge their right to claim Palestine for a national Jewish state.

But America and American Christianity stand at a crossroad. The majority must decide whether it will longer submit to being the tool of a small but ruthless and unscrupulous minority of a minority people. The great majority of American Jews also must choose. Will we all acquiesce in the program of political Zionism? Will we follow it out to its inescapable consequences?

If we do, we shall be walking the road to ruin.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) BENJAMIN H. FREEDMAN.

We believe that what Mr. Freedman writes should be carefully weighed.

Memorandum
President,

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.

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